

Funds to Karnataka under Special Component Programme

2477. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount, so far, sanctioned during 2000-2001 to Karnataka under Special Component Programme;

(b) whether it has come to the notice of Government that the Karnataka Government has decided to pool the funds under the above programme for various departments and channelise the same to families below the poverty line;

(c) if so, whether Karnataka Government has requested to channelise the funds to the Social Welfare Department; and

(d) if so, the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Special Component Plan for Welfare of Scheduled Castes for the year 2000-2001, prepared by Government of Karnataka has envisaged flow of Rs. 445.26 crores to the Special Component Plan out of a total State Plan of Rs. 7274 crores.

Under the Schemes implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Rs. 24.64 crores have been sanctioned to Karnataka as Special Central Assistance, which is an additive to the Special Component Plan of Karnataka.

During discussion held in the Ministry in December 2000, officers of Government of Karnataka have indicated that they are following a system under which parts of funds of Departments, not having schemes of divisible nature, are being pooled for taking up specific schemes for welfare of Scheduled Castes like construction of houses under Ambedkar Housing Scheme, provision of irrigation under Ganga Kalyan Scheme. The State Government has been requested to channelise the entire fund earmarked as Special Component Plan through the State Scheduled Castes' Welfare Department by adopting practice similar to that followed in Maharashtra.

(d) Does not arise.